

DRAFT

Dartington Recreation Association
Monday 19th December, 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Minutes

1. Present

Trustees: Mandy Burton (Chair), Carole Tudor (Treasurer), Louise Morpeth (Secretary), Steve Mackay, Will Fitzgerald, David Coleman, Peggy Prout

Others: Bex House, Karen Williams

2. Apologies: Ken Phillips, Judy Findlay, Elaine Hopkins, David Prout,

3. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record with a minor revision to Point 3. It should read 'the all weather pitch at KEVICCS...'

Update on actions & matters arising

LM updated on meetings with WF and Alan Blake regarding the MUGA.

LM had also spoken with Rob Sekula at SHDC to clarify the conditions of the Section 106 funding.

CT has not had a chance to follow up on transfer of money.

WF – the football pitch has been fine recently because it has been so dry. WF is keen to clarify responsibilities for potential drainage problems on the pitch. A call with Chris Edwards, who attended some of the pre-development meetings, suggested that South West Water said that the responsibility lay with the developer. WF requested that we establish who is responsible for any potential drainage problems. PP reported that the Parish council has approached SHDC regarding this matter.

ACTION: to ask Cllr Hogdson to access the minutes of these pre-development meetings. LM to write to JH formally on behalf of DRA. WF has asked Terry Parsons – if necessary – to keep a record of any instances of unusual flooding on the pitch.

MB - a special meeting was held to discuss current situation with swimming pool. Notes were taken (see DRA records).

Action: LM to follow up with EH to offer help with organising an AGM in the new year.

MB - A meeting was held with DHT about the lease.

4. Treasurer's report

No major changes to the account from last time. All invoicing is up to date. Balance currently £2905. MB and LM are now signatories to the account.

5. Club reports

Meadowbrook Social Club

Wifi has been fitted. Christmas raffle went well and made some money. Various ongoing problems with the building.

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CT asked whether the social club could house the temporary skittle alley currently in the pavilion. DC confirmed it is the property of Totnes Skittle Club.

Action: CT to follow up with the Club about finding a new place for it to be stored.

Football Club

The club is now top of 3rd division. Recently had half page in the Herald Express. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the club there will be an event at the Meadowbrook club.

Parish Council

Nothing to report. Currently recruiting a new clerk.

Sub-aqua

Sub-aqua club has been at Meadowbrook for 25 years. One of the big worries of the club is the future of the the Meadowbrook building. The club want to do whatever is possible to help the building survive. SM was asking if there can be more done by the clubs to support Meadowbrook. The club has 90 members. They have done 902 dives. There have been 60 different divers in the water so far. They have trained more people this year than in the last 5 years. There are 21 instructors. The club has had a very successful year. Looking to recruit about 25 more members to ensure the financial sustainability..

6. Chairs report

Dave Chapman (who helped develop the Atmos project) is available to help with consultation with the village about the future use and development of the Meadowbrook building.

Action: KW to do an introduction for LM to Dave Chapman

KW leaves DHT on 21.12.2016. Her position will be covered by Jane Bleach in the interim. Jo Talling will be the contact between DHT and DRA on the lease.

Visit from Village SOS who are looking to help develop the MUGA and pool proposals. Play equipment provider has visited the area and is preparing a quote so DRA has a benchmark.

Discussions with Lifeworks have led to them offering to develop a proposal.

Action: LM to to invite Sarah Jane from Lifeworks to the next meeting to present on their proposal.

The guardians of Meadowbrook from Bidwell brook have started tidying up the play area.

Action: LM to send a thank you to Bidwell for the guardians for Meadowbrook work so far.

7. The vision

LM circulated a draft vision (attached) and comments were received.

The document will be submitted to Kate Wilson to be appended when finalised to the Open Spaces Strategy.

Action: LM to revise this note and bring it to the next meeting for final sign off.

8. Update on coppicing

Alan has completed his courses and is ready to start work. He hopes in time to sell bits and pieces from the coppicing to raise money for the DRA.

Decision: DRA authorise up to £100 to meet his expenses to support the coppicing. To be reviewed in the the Spring.

9. The big tidy up

Ten volunteers helped with the second big tidy up which focussed on the nature trail. Two new people joined the tidy up efforts. The fence has been taken down and the paths cleared.

There are a few jobs still to do (leaf clearing, litter picking and path widening) and it was agreed that another tidy up day would be organised for late January.

Action: LM to organise

10. Update on the lease

A productive meeting was held with DHT. All key points were agreed. Lawyers have now been instructed to finalise.

KW reported that following three open meetings, and full community support for the new arrangements, DHT have taken the decision to provide a new lease to DRA CIO under the S117 (3) Charities Act 2011 exemption rather than advertise this land on an open market basis. DHT trustees will formally sign off the amendment to the lease, at their next meeting on 3rd March. KW assured the DRA that DHT Chair and CEO are supportive of the new lease being issued. DHT will issue a 'letter of comfort' for the interim period.

WF asked what the risks are of the the lease not being transferred. It was agreed that the letter of comfort will have to suffice.

Action: KW to share the letter of comfort with the DRA. KW will also sort out the side letter for the Meadowbrook Community Centre. KW undertook to provide assurance that DHT will cover DRA legal fees.

11. MUGA/ play area

LM reported on various meetings to clarify funding opportunities for the MUGA and play area. WF suggested the DRA act to co-ordinate with T&D football club and cricket club to see if we can coordinate bids for S106 money. LM to approach Kate Wilson and then to call a formal meeting of the interested parties if appropriate.

12. AOB

LM to contact Meadowbrook bar steward to book DRA meetings for 2017.

Action: LM to book and circulate dates of future meetings.

Decisions to be raised at the next meeting – support for a landing pad and for a mobile phone mast on Meadowbrook land.

Karen Williams was formally thanked for all her support of the DRA.

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Vision for Dartington Recreation Association

The Dartington Recreation Association (DRA) aspires to create a vibrant hub for sport, recreation, education and leisure for the residents of Dartington and surrounding areas.

It will do this by developing and improving the facilities in Meadowbrook, and by nurturing and supporting local clubs and providers of activities.

These facilities will build on the generous legacy of the ten acres of land bequeathed to village by the Elmhursts and Dartington Hall Trust, and the subsequent efforts of villagers to develop facilities including the swimming pool, football pitch, tennis courts, community centre and play area.

These facilities will be open to all regardless of age, gender or ability all year round (where possible).

They will be run by residents for residents and become the pride of the village.

The DRA is committed to working with all local bodies interested in achieving this vision including local schools, charities and businesses.

In the spirit of openness and transparency, the DRA will communicate regularly with those developing sport, recreation and leisure facilities in Totnes to find opportunities to collaborate and make the most of scarce resources.

The DRA has a series of short, medium and long term aims to achieve this vision

Short term

- to raise awareness of the DRA and to attract volunteers to help run the charity
- to undertake visible, affordable improvements to the existing facilities and land
- to consult widely on plans for improving existing facilities and attracting funding for new ones.

Medium term

- to build a new play area for children and young people
- to transform the tennis courts into a multi-use games area, ideally with the option of being covered and floodlit in the long term

Long term

- to repair and revitalize the swimming pool and associated facilities
- to collaborate with Meadowbrook Social Club to transform the Meadowbrook Community Centre into modern, well-equipped hub for sport, leisure, education and recreation.

[PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE ORIGINAL VERSION – A REVISED VERSION WILL BE CIRCULATED AT NEXT MEETING IN JANUARY 2017]